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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/970,704	10/05/2001	Mickey W. Calvert	53394.000530	3083

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EXAMINER
CHAN, SING P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1734	11

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No. 09/970,704	Applicant(s) CALVERT, MICKEY W.	
	Examiner Sing P Chan	Art Unit 1734	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 30 July 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.

b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.

2. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:

   (a) ☒ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);

   (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);

   (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or

   (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

   NOTE: *See Continuation Sheet.*

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.

4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).

5. ☐ The a)☐ affidavit, b)☐ exhibit, or c)☐ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.

6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.

7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a)☒ will not be entered or b)☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

   The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

   Claim(s) allowed: _____.

   Claim(s) objected to: _____.

   Claim(s) rejected: *1-29*.

   Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a)☐ approved or b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s)(PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.

10. ☐ Other: _____

RICHARD CRISMINO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Chan Sing Po

Continuation of 2. NOTE: The proposed claim amendments and associated arguments recite the feature of "plurality of heads fixed relative to one other at predetermined angles as measured relative to the axis," which is considered to be a new issue, and would requir further consideration and/or search. The claims remain rejected as in the Final Office Action.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth below. The complete set of claims is provided below in compliance with the Revised Amendment format authorized by Deputy Commissioner Kunin in the January 31, 2003 United States Patent and Trademark Office release. The status of each claim is shown next to each claim number; current additions are shown by underlines and deletions are shown by strikethrough.

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for assembling absorbent garments, the apparatus comprising:

an applicator having one or more heads, each head being located on a fixed-length arm, and each head being adapted to hold absorbent garment parts;

a motor adapted to rotate the applicator;

a control device adapted to control the rotational speed of the motor;

wherein the control device is operated such that the one or more applicator heads travel at a first speed at a first location to pick up one or more parts moving at approximately the first speed, and the one or more applicator heads travel at a second speed at a second location to deposit the one or more parts onto one or more targets moving at approximately the second speed.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the applicator has two heads.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more heads comprises a vacuum gripping device.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more heads comprises a mechanical gripping device.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more heads comprises a combination of gripping devices.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the motor is an AC servo motor.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control device at least partially comprises an AC servo drive.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more parts are absorbent core substrates and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to pick up, convey and deposit the absorbent core substrates.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the one or more targets are an absorbent core tissue layer or an absorbent core and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to deposit the absorbent core substrates onto the core tissue later or absorbent core. ← typo

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more targets comprises an absorbent garment chassis layer and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to deposit the one or more parts onto the absorbent garment chassis layer.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the one or more parts are absorbent core subassemblies and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to pick up, convey and deposit the absorbent core subassemblies.

12. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the one or more parts are grip tabs and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to pick up, convey and deposit the grip tabs.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more targets comprises a supply of spaced apart target objects and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to deposit the one or more parts onto the supply of spaced apart target objects.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more targets comprises a continuous web of target material and the one or more applicator heads are adapted to deposit the one or more parts onto the continuous web of target material.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first speed is less than the second speed.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is equal to about 3% to about 75% of the second speed.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is equal to about 10% to about 50% of the second speed.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is equal to about 20% of the second speed.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is about 20 feet per minute to about 1,000 feet per minute and the second speed is about 50 feet per minute to about 3,000 feet per minute.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is about 40 feet per minute to about 650 feet per minute and the second speed is about 1,000 feet per minute to about 2,000 feet per minute.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is about 65 feet per minute to about 328 feet per minute and the second speed is about 1,686 feet per minute.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first speed is greater than the second speed.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more heads further comprises a cutting device adapted to cut the one or more parts from a continuous supply web.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more heads further comprises a bonding device adapted to bond the one or more parts to the one or more targets.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the bonding device comprises a portion of an ultrasonic bonding device.

26. (Currently amended) An apparatus for assembling absorbent garments, the apparatus comprising:

~~an~~ a fixed-length applicator means adapted to hold absorbent garment parts;

a driving means for rotating the fixed length applicator means;

a control means adapted to control the driving means;

wherein the control device is operated such that the fixed-length applicator means travels at a first speed at a first location to pick up one or more parts moving at approximately the first speed, and the fixed-length applicator means travels at a second speed at a second location to deposit the one or more parts onto one or more targets moving at approximately the second speed.

27. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the fixed-length applicator means comprises a rotating assembly having one or more applicator heads.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the driving means comprises an AC servo motor.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the control means at least partially comprises an AC servo drive.